

**Parks Advisory Committee
June 24, 2009
6:30 PM
Minutes**

Call to order: Mr. Deeds called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Peters	Card	Parker	Boumis
	Donahue	Bender	Toledo	
	Bumpus	Deeds	Paini	
	Peoples	Ebert	Mershon	

Absent: Bolin, Byrd, Luehrs, Turner and Baltzer (joined later at 6:35pm)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 27th, 2009 passed with all ayes.

Mayor's Opening Remarks

Mayor Ebert welcomed the committee members and thanked them for being there.

New Items for Discussion

09-06 **Canal Winchester Joint Recreation District Comprehensive Review**
 -Bob Toledo

Mr. Toledo gave everyone a handout consisting of a list of all the Board members and Commissioners, the Code of Conduct and enrollment numbers for each sport for 2008 and 2009.

He stated that the Recreation District was created in February of 2001 by an agreement between the Village and the School District. The agreement expires in 2011. They are an independent government entity and have the ability to be a taxing body. We are very similar to New Albany, though they are ahead of us in the development of their Rec. District.

When most people think of the Recreation District, they think that they are here just for the kids. As a group, though, their biggest goal is to open up to all ages. To accomplish that, the district will have to expand and receive finances to reach that next level. There is an extension in the works to extend the original agreement to a 50 year contract. The original Board was a self-perpetuating Board and they have moved away from that to where now the Chairperson is selected by Village Council rep. and the School Board rep. Then the three of them will choose the Treasurer and Vice-Chair. This is a big improvement.

This district is run almost completely by volunteers and it is getting too big to continue in that fashion. More and more people are unable or unwilling to take time to volunteer and request that they raise fees and just pay someone to run the concession stand and maintain the diamonds. A big problem with volunteers is that they can't be held accountable to adhere to procedures.

Mr. Toledo discussed that they need to get the right people in there to be Commissioners and Coaches instead of taking whomever they can get. A Code of Conduct has been put in place to keep the organization running professionally. In the last few years, the organization has really tightened and streamlined their procedures and financials. It is a very well-run organization. An audit is scheduled for December 2009 and he looks forward to it.

Financial information, budgets and the expansion fund were discussed. The Sportscaster newsletter was developed and is distributed three times a year.

What it would take to put a levy on the ballot is being discussed. The cost of the operating levy and bond issue they are seeking would be \$23/\$150,000 house annually. This would allow for expansion of the program, hiring of staff and land acquisition. Currently, the District uses Village and school facilities and they need to have the ability to expand. It will possibly be on the ballot either in November or in the spring of 2010.

Mr. Paini asked how this committee can help him with the levy initiative. He responded that he needs to know what's available for active land and what is the Village planning to do with it. He wants to use the information on some of the land sites, like Walnut Creek Park, which the Village has already compiled. He wants to make sure that whatever is done, it's done right.

Mrs. Mershon and Dr. Bender both praised Mr. Toledo for the changes that have been made in the Recreation District and how much more professional the program is running now.

Mr. Peters asked about the time table for getting the levy on the ballot. Mr. Deeds stated that the deadline to get issues on the November ballot is in August.

Mr. Bumpus asked about land acquisition. Where are they looking and what are the boundaries? Mr. Toledo stated that they can acquire land within the school district and even outside of it if it will benefit the recreation district as a whole.

Mr. Peters asked what the priority list would be if the levy passed. Discussion ensued regarding the land available for acquisition, improvements to existing parks and the sports programs that could be expanded.

It was suggested that we put together a recreation survey and a park-specific survey and get it up on the Village's website and the Recreation board website. Use questions that will sort the data by respondents with kids and without kids. Expand the pool of respondents to include more than just the people already involved in the Recreation program to get a well-rounded view of what people in the Village want to have available for their quality of life. Make some questions multiple-choice and leave some open ended.

There will be a survey sub-committee chaired by Mr. Paini and anyone wanting to be on the committee should talk to Victor and have information ready for the next meeting.

Other Business:

Plans for future meeting agendas...

July – Bring information about open land in the area. Review the Master plan. Take goals and break them down into specific action items.

August – Bring back ideas. Get them coordinated and consolidated. Split into trails, active areas and passive areas.

September – Summary of plans, green spaces, etc.

Mr. Card asked who the person was representing that was pushing for the tennis courts. Discussion of tennis courts and the skate park ensued.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm